CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH OFFICE
BC-315 (SGW CAMPUS)
879-5850

VOLUME IX NO. 2 AUGUST 1981

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC)

The 1982-83 NSERC applications and brochures are expected in this office in early September.

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE BROCHURE AND APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY FORWARDED TO ALL ONE-YEAR GRANT HOLDERS AND TO THOSE WHOSE GRANTS ARE EXPIRING THIS YEAR. THE THREE-YEAR GRANT HOLDERS WILL ONLY RECEIVE THE BROCHURE.

All new applicants and those who have not received the above forms by SEPTEMBER 11, should call this office.

The Requests for Next Instalment will be forwarded, at a later date, directly to the individuals by NSERC.

Since I have received an advanced copy of this year's Awards Guide, I will highlight below some of the essential changes.

Interdisciplinary Research (paragraph 5)

The wording of the statement on interdisciplinary research has been simplified over that used in last year's Guide. This modification does not, however, represent a change in policy.

Engineering Research (paragraph 6)

The policy introduced last year of asking researchers in engineering to outline their contributions to engineering technology and practice will be maintained. Space for this purpose is now available on the Personal Data Form (100). Again this year, we will publish a separate leaflet giving an expanded version of the description found in paragraph 6.

Research involving Hazardous Compounds (paragraph 20)

The new paragraph is intended to remind researchers handling hazardous compounds of the necessity to take the appropriate safety precautions.

Team and Co-op Grants (paragraphs 25 and 26)

A subscommittee of the Committee on Grants and Scholarships was asked to review Council's support of research through team, co-op and core grants and to make recommendations on any new mechanisms which would lead to better vehicles for the support of university research.

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC) (Cont'd)

Team and Co-op Grants (paragraphs 25 and 26) (Cont'd)

As a result, the subcommittee recommended that team grants be left unchanged and that the co-op grants program be terminated, on the understanding that a phase-out mechanism would be developed to protect research programs currently funded.

Since it is felt that a different mechanism is needed, a new program of Special Collaborative Projects will be initiated. These grants will address themselves only to established groups interested in capitalizing on a special opportunity; this is not a developmental program. Further information will be available in a few weeks.

Infrastructure Grants (paragraph 27)

Council modified its core grant program by changing the name to infrastructure grants and removing the requirement that applications be tied to a specific piece of equipment.

Queries about Decisions (paragraph 32)

This is a new paragraph asking applicants to contact NSERC, not committee members, if they wish to obtain information about the reasons for Council's decisions.

Equipment Grants (paragraphs 58 to 66)

The following changes have been made, most of them in response to the recommendations of the Equipment Task Force:

Description (paragraph 58)

The limits for the various categories of equipment have been changed as follows:

Equipment Grants	$7,001 - $100,000
Major Equipment Grants	$100,001 - $275,000
Major Installation Grants	more than $275,000

Review Procedures (paragraph 59)

The review of major installation applications will not necessarily be accomplished by means of site visits.

Application Procedures (paragraph 62)

Council continues to require that applicants explore the possibility of purchasing equipment manufactured in Canada and discuss its availability and cost in their submission. An application lacking this information will be considered incomplete. In addition, Council now encourages applicants to provide information about the accessibility and utilization of equipment for which funds have been requested.

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC) (Cont'd)

Travel Grants (paragraphs 67 to 70)

The application procedures have been simplified as follows:

(a) Form 105 (application for travel grant) has been expanded to serve as an application for travel grant, scientific exchange program and international collaborative research grant, provided the travel lasts for AT LEAST THREE MONTHS.

(b) Brief trips under the international program will use the shorter form 109 or 116.

(c) The deadline date for travel grants is now OCTOBER 15.

PRAI Grants (changes summarized in paragraph 75)

A new mechanism has been developed, which will provide funding for a period of up to five years.

Chapter 3 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND USE OF GRANT FUNDS

Most policies remain unchanged. However, some of the existing regulations have been strengthened. This will be noticed in some instances where the word "should" has been replaced by "must".

Unspent Balances (paragraph 81)

If grantees or former grantees have unspent balances that they are unlikely to require, either for their own research or for shared research efforts, they must return them to NSERC or formally request NSERC's authorization to use the funds for other purposes.

General Principles (paragraph 82)

The following statement has been added: "A grantee who is uncertain of the appropriate use of grant funds must consult the Research Grants Officer at the university. If there is no explicit NSERC guideline to answer the question, the research grants officer will seek an appropriate ruling from NSERC."

Fiscal Period (paragraph 84)

The following statement has been added: "If the grant is not renewed at the end of the fiscal period, any unspent funds remaining may be used within three months of the fiscal period to pay for services rendered or commitments made prior to the end of the period. The three-month period may be extended by NSERC upon receipt of a written request from the grantee."

Conflict of Interest (paragraph 85)

A new paragraph on conflict of interest has been added.

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC) (Cont'd)

Stipends to Graduate Students (paragraph 96)

This has been increased effective September 1, 1981 to $700 per month ($8,400 per annum).

Stipends to Postdoctoral Fellows paid out of Grants (paragraph 99)

The maximum stipends will be increased, effective September 1, 1981 to $1,365 per month ($16,380 per annum). A second increase will be applied in September 1982 which will bring to $1,500 the differential between the fellowship and maximum stipends. This differential will be maintained thereafter.

Purchase and Ownership of Equipment (paragraph 104)

In response to a recommendation of the Equipment Task Force, Council added the following statement: "Any equipment purchased with NSERC grant funds belongs to the university and not to the individual grantee. However, when a researcher is moving to another Canadian university and wishes to bring with him equipment purchased with NSERC grant funds, Council encourages the university to accede to such a request provided the equipment is not necessary for the research activities of other researchers."

Equipment Grants (paragraphs 114 and 115)

Again in response to a recommendation of the Equipment Task Force, Council added the following regulation: "Equipment grants shall only be used to purchase the equipment for which the grant was awarded. A researcher who is not able to purchase the equipment specified or who wishes to select alternative equipment, must submit a written request to NSERC, outlining the reasons for changing the selection. NSERC will assess the modified request and inform the grantee of its decision. If recipients of equipment grants do not require the full amount awarded for this purpose, they must refund any remaining balance to NSERC."

Closing of Grant Accounts and moving from one University to Another (paragraphs 121 and 122)

NSERC has attempted to clarify and simplify the procedures.

Conference Grants (paragraphs 146 to 150)

The application must now be signed not only by the applicant, but also by an authorized representative of the organizing institution or organization.

NSERC/Nuffield Foundation Visiting Lectureships in Science

This program has been terminated by the Nuffield Foundation.

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC) (Cont'd)

Forms

The forms which will be available from this office are as follows:

Brochure - Awards Guide 1982-83

Grants (Form No.)

100(1981) Personal Data
101(1981) Application for Operating Grant
102(1981) Application for Equipment Grant
105(1981) Application for Travel Grant
106(1981) Application for Conference Grant
Application for Scientific Publication Grant:
107(1981) (a) Research Journal
108(1981) (b) Book or Monograph
109(1981) Application to participate in the NSERC Exchange Programs
111(1981) Application for CIDA/NSERC Research Associateship
115(1981) Application for International Scientific Exchange Award
116(1981) Application for International Collaborative Research Grant
120(1981) Certification of Animal Care
122(1981) Certification of Acceptability of Laboratory Procedures for Research involving Biohazards
130(1981) Acknowledgement of Application
131(1981) Procedures for Application: Research Grants in Psychology
132(1981) Field Codes by Discipline
133(1981) Area of Application Codes
135(1981) Engineering Research

Please note that *FIVE COPIES* of all application forms for Operating and Equipment Grants in all areas except Psychology, must be submitted to this office. Four copies will be sent directly to NSERC and one copy will be retained by this office. In the field of Psychology, a total of seven copies should be submitted to this office.

PLEASE NOTE THAT URO FORM 102 (1979) "NOTIFICATION OF RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION" MUST BE ATTACHED TO ALL APPLICATIONS.
ALL APPLICATION FORMS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH OFFICE (SGW CAMPUS, BC-315) NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16.
IN THE CASE OF TRAVEL APPLICATIONS, THE DEADLINE DATE TO THIS OFFICE IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9.

NSERC Task Force on Equipment

For anyone interested, this office has a copy of the recommendations of the Task Force on Equipment.

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL (NSERC) (Cont'd)

Funding of Computers

In a recent letter which Dr. O'Brien received from Dr. MacNabb, he commented on the increased funding received by NSERC (see copy of the latest CONTACT). In this letter, Council has reconfirmed its position on the funding of computers and, in addition, has initiated:

"a thorough study of the recent development in the field of micro and minicomputers and of the current and anticipated needs of the science and engineering research community. An ad hoc committee is being struck and will include representatives of the universities' central computing facilities and research offices, and the disciplines of computer science and other major users of computers. The committee will consult with the community during its review."

"During the period of this review, Council is prepared to fund a limited number of computers dedicated to specific research needs."

In addition, they are requiring that:

"applications for computers costing over $20,000 be accompanied by documentation giving evidence that alternative methods or systems (such as computing centres, leasing and purchase of time on off-campus facilities) have been considered. The comments of the university computing centre and the university research office should be appended to the proposal."

"When assessing these applications, we will be assigning the following priorities to the equipment requested:

(1) Computers used for research on computers;
(2) Dedicated computers tied to research equipment and absolutely essential to carry out the research;
(3) General service computers.

Obviously, applications falling into the third category stand only a very limited chance of funding during this period of review."

"Questions regarding the purchase of computers costing in excess of $100,000 may be addressed to Steve Shugar (993-0949); inquiries regarding computers falling into the category of minor equipment ($100,000 and under) should be addressed to Janet Halliwell (993-2195).

The university community is invited to present suggestions to the ad hoc committee by writing to Steve Shugar, secretary of the committee. It would be appreciated if copies of such letters were sent to the Research Office.

NSERC UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

We have just received the revised description of the University Research Fellowships Program for the 1982-83 competition. Anyone wishing to have a copy of the brochure and application forms should contact this office immediately. The deadline for submission of nominations to this office will be OCTOBER 16.

University Research Office.